

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A system for providing accurate data storage emulation in a computer system, the system comprising:

a host computer system having at least one storage system;

an emulating computer in communication with said host computer system; and

an emulating storage system in communication with said emulating computer dedicated to emulation of an operation of at least one of said at least one storage systems.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said emulating storage system is disposed within an enclosure housing said emulating computer.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said emulating storage system is located externally to an enclosure housing said emulating computer.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

at least one additional emulating storage system.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said emulating storage system includes operating characteristics substantially approximating operating characteristics of said at least one storage system of said host computer.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

means for preserving data stored in said emulating storage system during emulated power cycling of said emulating storage system.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one storage system comprises:

a hard disk drive having a storage capacity; and

said emulating storage system comprises:

a hard disk drive having a storage capacity substantially equal to said storage capacity of said hard disk drive.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said emulated storage system substantially excludes data pertaining to internal operation of said emulating computer.

9. (Original) A method for accurately emulating host computer data storage, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a host computer system capable of interacting with at least one storage system native to said host computer system;

disposing an emulating computer in communication with said provided host computer system;

coupling an emulating storage system to said disposed emulating computer; and

dedicating said coupled emulating storage system to emulation of said at least one storage system native to said host computer system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

excluding data associated with an internal operation of said emulating computer from said dedicated coupled emulating storage system.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

disposing said coupled emulating storage system within an enclosure housing said emulating computer.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

disposing said coupled emulating storage system outside an enclosure housing said emulating computer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

dedicating each of a plurality of emulating storage devices to a separate one of said at least one storage devices native to said host computer system.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:

emulating a succession of said at least one storage device native to said host computer system employing a succession of said plurality of dedicated emulating storage devices.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of: preserving data stored in said plurality of dedicated emulating storage devices while said succession of said at least one storage devices native to said host computer system is emulated.

16. (Original) A system for emulating an operation of at least one storage device adapted for operation with a host computer system, the system comprising:

means for dedicating an emulating storage device to each of said at least one storage devices adapted for operation with said host computer system, thereby establishing at least one dedicated emulating storage device;

means for coupling said at least one dedicated emulating storage device to said host computer via an intelligent interface; and

means for monitoring an operation of said at least one dedicated emulating storage device.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein said monitoring means comprises:

means for diagnosing a fault condition among said at least one dedicated emulating storage devices.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein said monitoring means further comprises:

means for performing diagnostic operations in response to said diagnosed fault condition.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein said means for dedicating comprises:

selecting said at least one dedicated emulating storage device having operating characteristics substantially approximating operating characteristics of said at least one storage device adapted for operation with said host computer system.

20. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein said intelligent interface is a computer.